

Monday, October 4, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I hope the school year has started successfully for all of you. As a parent/guardian of a student in **Winterfield Elementary**, I am writing this letter to let you know that **Winterfield Elementary** has been designated as a Targeted Support & Improvement Additional Targeted Support (TSI-AT) school by the North Carolina State Board of Education. As stated in ESSA Section 1111(d)(2), North Carolina had to identify schools for targeted support and improvement. TSI-AT schools in North Carolina are those that have a subgroup that is under-performing. The intent of this opportunity is to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity, and improve the quality of instruction.

As a TSI-AT school, **Winterfield Elementary** is required to develop a comprehensive plan that specifically addresses how the school will improve student achievement. The plan will also include how our district will support us and monitor the progress of our school. The comprehensive plan will address the following areas:

- Classroom Management
- Standards-aligned Instruction
- Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)
- Instructional Leadership
- Recruitment & Retention of Effective Teachers
- Support for Grade-to-Grade Transitions
- Implementation of a Tiered Instructional System
- Data-Driven Decision Making
- Student Support Services
- Family and Community Engagement

We have set the following goals for **Winterfield Elementary** this year:

- **Goal 1: Provide grade level appropriate instruction for all students with just-in-time scaffolds to increase overall proficiency on all MAP growth targets from 17.3% proficient to 60% proficient in reading and from 24.7% proficient to 60% proficient in math K-5.**
- **Goal 2: Establish and maintain a culture that supports belonging, SEL (social emotional learning) skills, and learning for all students and staff and reduce total number of disciplinary infractions that result in OSS (out of school suspension)/ ISS (in school suspension) by 10% as compared to 2018-2019 (from 56 events to 50).**
- **Goal 3: Reduce the percentage of students who are chronically absent by 1.5% as compared to 2018-2019 (from 10.5% to 9%).**

- **Goal 4: Increase overall proficiency on EOG exams in grades 3-5:**
  - a. Increase reading proficiency in grades 3rd-5th from 11.8 to 60% grade level proficiency and meet high growth status as measured by the N.C. Ready EOG Reading Assessment.*
  - b. Increase math proficiency in grades 3rd-5th from 11.9% to 60% grade level proficiency and meet high growth status as measured by the N.C. Ready EOG Math Assessment.*
  - c. Increase 5th grade science proficiency from 24.5% to 65% grade level proficiency and meet high growth status as measured by the N.C. Ready EOG Science Assessment.*
- **Goal 5: Foster a sense of belonging and partnership among families and our community.**

Our students need to experience higher achievement levels, but it will require hard work on the part of staff, students and families. Here are some strategies Winterfield Elementary will be implementing:

- ***Real time teacher coaching for classroom teachers***
- ***Small group instruction across all major subject areas***
- ***Quarterly parent meetings for each major subject area***

Parent engagement is at the heart of our school improvement efforts. Here are some ways we can work together:

- Make sure that both you and your student are aware of academic expectations set for your student this school year. A list of learning objectives in student-friendly language is available from your student's teacher(s).
- Call **Ms. Martinez at Winterfield** if you have questions or concerns about your student or to set up an appointment to meet with a school staff member who will be working with your student.
- Make sure that your student is prepared and attends school each day.
- Monitor your student's homework.
- Monitor the progress your student is making and attend meetings with your student's teacher(s).
- Keep track of our website and social media sites  
**<https://schools.cms.k12.nc.us/winterfieldES/Pages/Default.aspx>**.
- Volunteer.
- Join the **Winterfield PTO**

Sounds like a lot but preparing our students so that they can succeed is not easy and is a group effort. Here are some resources available to help:

- Zhenia Martinez, Winterfield Family Advocate, 980-343-6400
- Graduation requirements: [www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements/](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements/)
- K-12 standards in academic subjects: [www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/)
- State student achievement test results: [www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/)
- N.C. School Report Cards: <https://ncreportcards.ondemand.sas.com/src>

We're excited about this school year and are working to make it a success for your student. Already, we have:

- **After school tutoring**
- **After school student activities**
- **Implementing CREW for social emotional learning**

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact **Natalie LaRusch** at **[Natalie.LaRusch@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:Natalie.LaRusch@cms.k12.nc.us)**.

Sincerely,

**Angela Grant, Principal**